108TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

H. R. 4057

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

March 30, 2004

Mr. Renzi (for himself, Mrs. Northup, Mr. Shays, Mr. Ney, Mr. Simmons, Mr. Pickering, Mr. Tiberi, Ms. Pryce of Ohio, Mr. Matheson, Mrs. Johnson of Connecticut, Mr. Capuano, and Mr. Reynolds) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Financial Services

A BILL

To establish a grant program administered under an agreement among the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness, to address the goal of ending chronic homelessness through coordinated provision of housing, health care, mental health and substance abuse treatment, supportive and other services, including assistance in accessing non-homeless specific benefits and services, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, 3 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE. This Act may be cited as the "Samaritan Initiative 4 Act of 2004". SEC. 2. SAMARITAN INITIATIVE. 7 Title IV of the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance 8 Act (42 U.S.C. 11136 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new subtitle: "Subtitle H—Samaritan Initiative 10 "SEC. 495. PURPOSE. "The purpose of the Samaritan Initiative is to au-12 thorize competitive grants for coordinated comprehensive housing, treatment, and support services to chronically homeless persons to accomplish the following objectives: "(1) To reduce the prevalence of chronic home-16 17 lessness. 18 "(2) To support promising strategies to move 19 chronically homeless persons in urban and rural 20 communities from the streets to safe, permanent 21 housing. 22 "(3) To provide for integrated systems of serv-23 ices to improve the effectiveness of programs serving

chronically homeless persons.

1	"(4) To promote self-sufficiency and recovery
2	among chronically homeless persons.
3	"(5) To encourage programs serving chronically
4	homeless persons to promote access to Federal,
5	State, and local non-homeless specific programs of
6	assistance for which such persons are eligible.
7	"SEC. 495A. GRANT AUTHORITY AND ADMINISTRATION.
8	"(a) In General.—The participating Federal agen-
9	cies shall enter into an agreement among the agencies to
10	make and administer competitive grants to eligible enti-
11	ties, including faith-based and community-based organiza-
12	tions, in accordance with the provisions of this subtitle for
13	the purpose of providing treatment and support services
14	that are coordinated with housing for chronically homeless
15	persons.
16	"(b) Administrative Responsibility.—
17	"(1) In general.—The agreement authorized
18	under subsection (a) shall designate the Secretary of
19	Housing and Urban Development as the admin-
20	istering Secretary.
21	"(2) Delegations.—No provision of this sub-
22	title shall be construed as limiting the ability of the
23	participating Federal agencies to delegate, assign, or

share administrative responsibilities as the partici-

- pating Federal agencies may determine to be necessary or appropriate.
- 3 "(c) Coordination Among Participating Fed-
- 4 ERAL AGENCIES.—The administering Secretary shall co-
- 5 ordinate with other participating Federal agencies to im-
- 6 plement and administer the grant program established
- 7 under this subtitle.
- 8 "(d) Interagency Implementation and Moni-
- 9 TORING TEAM.—The participating Federal agencies shall
- 10 establish an interagency implementation and monitoring
- 11 team to review and conduct oversight of program grantees
- 12 under this subtitle. Each participating Federal agency
- 13 shall appoint appropriate designees to serve on the imple-
- 14 mentation and monitoring team.
- "(e) COORDINATION REQUIREMENTS.—
- 16 "(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the grant
- program under this subtitle, the interagency imple-
- mentation and monitoring team shall establish uni-
- form or coordinated requirements, standards, proce-
- dures, and timetables to the maximum extent fea-
- sible and appropriate.
- "(2) APPLICABILITY.—The general principle set
- forth in paragraph (1) shall be implemented by the
- 24 interagency implementation and monitoring team
- 25 with respect to—

1	"(A) application procedures and grant re-
2	quirements, including those providing for—
3	"(i) a single consolidated application
4	form; and
5	"(ii) a single timetable, location, and
6	procedure for filing of a consolidated appli-
7	cation;
8	"(B) criteria for award of grants;
9	"(C) a coordinated process for review and
10	approval or denial of the consolidated applica-
11	tion;
12	"(D) establishment of performance stand-
13	ards and measures of performance outcomes,
14	including—
15	"(i) the requirement that the Sec-
16	retary of Housing and Urban Development
17	attempt to quantify the reduction in chron-
18	ic homelessness; and
19	"(ii) the requirement that, where ap-
20	plicable, the grantees utilize a Homeless
21	Management Information System;
22	"(E) oversight, including monitoring, au-
23	dits, and evaluations of grantees, and require-
24	ments for annual reports by grantees; and

1	"(F) other factors that the interagency im-
2	plementation and monitoring team determines
3	are necessary or appropriate.
4	"(3) Performance assessment.—
5	"(A) Subject to paragraph (1), the inter-
6	agency implementation and monitoring team
7	shall establish such performance standards, per-
8	formance measures, and annual reporting re-
9	quirements and make such performance reviews
10	and audits as may be necessary or appropriate
11	for the following purposes:
12	"(i) To determine whether a grantee
13	has carried out its activities in a timely
14	manner and in accordance with applicable
15	requirements of this subtitle.
16	"(ii) To assess the effectiveness of a
17	grantee in accomplishing the objectives of
18	this subtitle.
19	"(iii) Other such purposes as the
20	interagency implementation and moni-
21	toring team may deem significant with re-
22	spect to the performance assessment of a
23	grantee.
24	"(B) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs
25	may provide program monitoring and evaluation

1	services and staff to participating Federal agen-
2	cies. In such cases, participating Federal agen-
3	cies may reimburse such Secretary, as appro-
4	priate.
5	"(f) Provisions and Requirements Applicable
6	TO GRANTS UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.—
7	"(1) In general.—A grantee under this sub-
8	title shall establish and operate a system of assist-
9	ance to chronically homeless persons that identifies
10	such persons and provides to such persons access to
11	affordable permanent housing that is coordinated
12	with appropriate treatment and support.
13	"(2) REQUIRED GRANTEE ACTIVITIES.—A
14	grantee under this subtitle shall carry out, directly
15	or through arrangements with a network of other
16	entities, the following:
17	"(A) Housing activities.—Eligible ac-
18	tivities specified in section 495B(a) that ensure
19	the placement of chronically homeless persons
20	in safe, affordable, permanent housing.
21	"(B) Treatment and support activi-
22	TIES.—Eligible activities specified in section
23	495C(a) to address the multiple physical health,
24	mental health, and substance abuse treatment
25	needs of chronically homeless persons who are

1	eligible for or residents in housing under section
2	495B(a).
3	"(C) Service coordination.—Activities,
4	including those coordinated with local planning
5	bodies, that promote the access of eligible
6	chronically homeless persons to a range of serv-
7	ices that contribute to self-sufficiency, recovery,
8	employment, stability in housing, and access to
9	health care.
10	"(D) Administrative
11	and planning activities, including the develop-
12	ment and implementation of comprehensive
13	plans for housing and services at the grantee
14	level with costs not to exceed 6 percent of total
15	costs of carrying out the program under this
16	subtitle.
17	"(E) Other services.—Such services
18	and activities as the participating Federal agen-
19	cies may find necessary and appropriate.
20	"(3) Criteria for grant award.—The cri-
21	teria for the award of grants under this subtitle
22	shall include the following:
23	"(A) The extent to which the applicant
24	demonstrates an understanding of the unique
25	characteristics of chronically homeless persons.

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1	"(B) The adequacy of the applicant's ap-
2	proach in addressing the needs of the chron-
3	ically homeless.
4	"(C) The capacity of the applicant to carry
5	out and sustain required activities.
6	"(D) Where services are to be provided
7	through a network of entities, the adequacy of
8	the qualifications of such entities and the stated
9	willingness of such entities to collaborate and
10	participate in carrying out proposed activities.
11	"(E) The extent to which the applicant has
12	been involved in Federal, State, or local non-
13	homeless specific programs of assistance that
14	could provide additional assistance to eligible
15	chronically homeless persons.
16	"(F) The commitment and the dem-
17	onstrated ability of the applicant to enumerate
18	the reduction in the number of chronically
19	homeless persons.
20	"(G) Such additional criteria as the par-
21	ticipating Federal agencies may deem signifi-
22	cant or necessary with respect to the applicant's
23	potential success in carrying out the purpose of

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this subtitle.

1 "(4) INITIAL TERM OF GRANT.—Notwith-2 standing any other provision of law, each grant shall 3 be for an initial term of 3 years.

"(5) Grant Renewal.—The participating Federal agencies may award on a competitive basis a renewal grant under this subtitle for additional 3-year terms, subject to the grantee's continued qualification for the grant as determined by the participating Federal agencies. The amount of a renewal grant under this paragraph may be up to 50 percent of the cost of the program.

"(6) Federal matching.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—A grant under this subtitle shall be available to pay the Federal share of the costs incurred by the grantee for activities under this subtitle.

"(B) Federal share.—For purposes of subparagraph (A), the Federal share shall be 75 percent of the cost of the program for the first year of the grant, 75 percent for the second year, and 50 percent for each succeeding year, including each year of a renewal grant term under paragraph (5).

1	"(C) Non-federal share.—The non-
2	Federal share of costs incurred by the grantee
3	may be in cash or in-kind, as appropriate.
4	"(7) Geographic distribution.—The partici-
5	pating Federal agencies shall ensure that consider-
6	ation is given to geographic distribution (such as
7	urban and rural areas) in the awarding of grants
8	under subsection (a).
9	"(8) Disclosure.—Section 12(a) of the De-
10	partment of Housing and Urban Development Act
11	(42 U.S.C. 3537a(a)) shall not apply to this subtitle.
12	"(g) Authorization of Appropriations.—
13	"(1) There are authorized to be appropriated to
14	carry out this subtitle \$70,000,000 for fiscal year
15	2005, of which—
16	"(A) \$50,000,000 is authorized to be ap-
17	propriated to the Department of Housing and
18	Urban Development;
19	"(B) \$10,000,000 is authorized to be ap-
20	propriated to the Department of Health and
21	Human Services; and
22	"(C) Up to \$10,000,000 is authorized
23	from the amounts to be appropriated to the De-
24	partment of Veterans Affairs for treatment of

1 homeless veterans under Medical Care to carry 2 out section 495D.

"(2) There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary for each of fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008.

"(h) AUTHORITY TO CONSOLIDATE FUNDS.—

- "(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of carrying out the program under this subtitle, in accordance with the agreement under subsection (a), the participating Federal agencies are authorized to transfer to the administering Secretary funds appropriated for use under this subtitle, and the administering Secretary may receive such funds.
- "(2) Construction.—In the event that, notwithstanding subsection (g), funds are not appropriated for use in accordance with this subtitle to one or more participating Federal agencies in any fiscal year, paragraph (1) shall not be construed to require a participating Federal agency that has been provided with budget authority pursuant to subsection (g) in a fiscal year to use such budget authority to fund grants for activities that are not in accordance with the primary mission of such participating Federal agency.

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1	"(i) Technical Assistance and Support.—In ad-
2	dition to funds otherwise provided for agency administra-
3	tive costs, up to 2 percent of amounts appropriated for
4	the activities under this subtitle may be used by the par-
5	ticipating Federal agencies for administrative costs, in-
6	cluding to—
7	"(1) provide technical assistance to applicants
8	and grantees; and
9	"(2) provide support and assistance in selecting
10	and assessing projects to carry out the purpose of
11	this subtitle, including any preparation necessary for
12	such selection and assessment.
13	"SEC. 495B. HOUSING ACTIVITIES.
14	"(a) Eligible Housing Activities.—Subject to
15	the provisions of section 495A, a grant under this subtitle
16	shall be used for activities in support of permanent hous-
17	ing for chronically homeless persons, including the fol-
18	lowing:
19	"(1) Provision of Housing.—
20	"(A) Acquisition.—The acquisition of oc-
21	cupancy-ready real property.
22	"(B) Rehabilitation.—The minor reha-
23	bilitation of real property for housing.
24	"(C) Operating costs.—The costs of op-
25	erating a housing project, including salaries and

1	benefits, maintenance, insurance, utilities, re-
2	placement reserve accounts, and furnishings.
3	"(D) Leasing of an existing
4	structure or structures, or portions thereof to
5	provide housing.
6	"(E) Housing counseling.—The costs
7	of counseling and advice services with respect to
8	property maintenance, financial management,
9	and other such matters as may be appropriate
10	to assist chronically homeless persons in obtain-
11	ing housing.
12	"(2) Rental assistance.—Project-based or
13	tenant-based rental assistance for chronically home-
14	less persons, which assistance shall be provided to
15	the extent practicable in the manner provided under
16	section 8 of the United States Housing Act of 1937
17	(42 U.S.C. 1437f).
18	"(3) OTHER ACTIVITIES.—Such other activities
19	as the Secretary of Housing and Urban Develop-
20	ment determines to be appropriate.
21	"(b) Program Requirements for Housing Ac-
22	TIVITIES.—
23	"(1) Requirements concerning real prop-
24	ERTY.—

"(A) USE RESTRICTION.—Each grantee
under this subtitle shall ensure that permanent
housing projects for chronically homeless persons that are acquired or rehabilitated with
grant amounts under this subtitle are used for

such persons for not less than 10 years.

- "(B) Housing Quality.—Each grantee under this subtitle shall ensure that housing assisted with grant amounts provided under this subtitle is decent, safe, and sanitary and complies with all applicable State and local housing codes, building codes, and licensing requirements in the jurisdiction in which the housing is located.
- "(C) Prevention of undue benefit.— Subject to the provisions of section 495A(e), the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may prescribe such terms and conditions as such Secretary considers necessary to prevent grantees from unduly benefiting from the sale or other disposition of projects, other than a sale or other disposition resulting in the use of a project for the direct benefit of chronically homeless persons.

1	"(2) Homeless management information
2	SYSTEM.—Each grantee shall be required to provide
3	such information to the appropriate administrator of
4	the local homeless management information system,
5	as is necessary for the implementation and operation
6	of homeless management information systems.
7	"SEC. 495C. TREATMENT AND SUPPORT SERVICES.
8	"Subject to the provision of section 495A, a grant
9	under this subtitle shall be used to provide treatment and
10	support services, which may include the following:
11	"(1) Primary Health Services.—Primary
12	health services, including the following:
13	"(A) Physician and other services.—
14	Health services related to family medicine, in-
15	ternal medicine, pediatrics, obstetrics, or gyne-
16	cology that are furnished by physicians and
17	where appropriate, physicians' assistants, nurse
18	practitioners, and nurse midwives.
19	"(B) Diagnostic services.—Diagnostic
20	laboratory and radiological services.
21	"(C) Preventive services.—Preventive
22	health services.
23	"(D) Emergency services.—Emergency
24	medical services.

1	"(E) Access to pharmaceutical serv-
2	ICES.—Access to pharmaceutical services.

"(2) Alcohol and drug abuse services.—
Services or activities designed to prevent, deter, reduce, or eliminate substance abuse or addictive behaviors, including a comprehensive range of personal and family counseling methods, early interventions, methodone treatment for opiate abusers, or detoxification for alcohol and other drug abusers, and treatment services such as intake and assessment, behavioral therapy and counseling, clinical and case management, pharmacotherapies, and self-help and peer support activities.

"(3) Mental Health and counseling services, including services and activities that apply therapeutic processes to personal, family, or situational problems in order to bring about a positive resolution of the problem or improved individual functioning or circumstances, including crisis interventions, individual supportive therapy, and prescription of psychotropic medications or explanations about the use and management of medications.

"(4) Outreach and engagement.—Outreach services including extending services or help to

- homeless persons to develop a relationship of trust
 and engage such persons into appropriate service
 programs.
 - "(5) Information and referral.—Services or activities designed to provide information about services and assistance provided through public and private programs, including Federal, State and local non-homeless targeted programs that provide or financially support the provision of medical, social, educational, or other related services, and a brief assessment of client needs to facilitate appropriate referrals.
 - "(6) Case management services and activities, including the arrangement, coordination, monitoring, and delivery of services to meet the needs of individuals who are homeless, including individual service plan development, counseling, monitoring, securing and coordinating services.
 - "(7) OTHER SERVICES.—Such other services as the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines appropriate.

1 "SEC. 495D. VETERANS' BENEFITS.

- 2 "Subject to the provisions of section 495A, the Sec-
- 3 retary of Veterans Affairs is authorized to provide eligible
- 4 veterans with case management services.
- 5 "SEC. 495E. AUTHORITY OF OTHER FEDERAL AGENCIES TO
- 6 PARTICIPATE UNDER THIS SUBTITLE.
- 7 "Federal agencies, in addition to the Secretaries of
- 8 Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human
- 9 Services, and Veterans Affairs, may participate under the
- 10 provisions of this subtitle to the extent funds are appro-
- 11 priated to each agency for purposes of participating under
- 12 the provisions of this subtitle.
- 13 "SEC. 495F. DEFINITIONS.
- "For purposes of this subtitle, the following defini-
- 15 tions shall apply—
- 16 "(1) Administering secretary.—The term
- 17 'administering Secretary' shall mean the Secretary
- designated as responsible for administration of the
- grant program under this subtitle by the agreement
- authorized in section 495A(a).
- 21 "(2) CHRONICALLY HOMELESS PERSON.—The
- term 'chronically homeless person' means an unac-
- companied disabled individual who has been sleeping
- in one or more places not meant for human habi-
- tation or in one or more emergency homeless shel-

1	ters for over one year or who has had four or more
2	periods of homelessness over three years.
3	"(3) DISABLED INDIVIDUAL.—The term 'dis-
4	abled individual' means an individual whose ability
5	to work or perform one or more activities of daily
6	living is limited due to—
7	"(A) a diagnosable substance use disorder
8	serious mental illness, developmental disability
9	or chronic physical illness or disability; or
10	"(B) the co-occurrence of two or more of
11	these conditions.
12	"(4) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible en-
13	tity' means a State, unit of general local govern-
14	ment, public housing agency, local workforce invest-
15	ment board and private nonprofit organization, in-
16	cluding a faith-based or community-based organiza-
17	tion.
18	"(5) Eligible veteran.—The term 'eligible
19	veteran' means a person who served in the active
20	military, naval, or air service, and who was dis-
21	charged or released under conditions other than dis-
22	honorable.
23	"(6) Homeless management information
24	SYSTEM.—The term 'Homeless Management Infor-
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mation System' shall mean a computerized data col-

lection application maintained by an eligible entity,
that—

- "(A) enumerates the homeless population within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity and the number of homeless individuals that received services from the eligible entity; and
- "(B) captures information on the characteristics and service needs of homeless individuals.
- "(7) Interagency implementation and monitoring team' shall mean a group of representatives appointed by each participating Federal agency, which shall coordinate among each other in implementing the provisions of this subtitle in accordance with subsection 495A(d) and which shall coordinate the review and oversight of program grantees under this subtitle.
- "(8) Participating Federal agency' shall mean the term 'participating Federal agency' shall mean the Secretaries of Housing and Urban Development, Health and Human Services, and Veterans Affairs, or any other Federal agency that may receive appropriations for purposes of participating under the provisions of this subtitle.

1	"(9) Private nonprofit organization.—
2	The term 'private nonprofit organization' means a
3	private organization—
4	"(A) no part of the net earnings of which
5	inures to benefits of any member, founder, con-
6	tributor, or individual;
7	"(B) that has a voluntary board; and
8	"(C) that has an accounting system or a
9	designated fiscal agent in accordance with re-
10	quirements established by the participating
11	Federal agencies.
12	"(10) Public Housing Agency.—The term
13	'public housing agency' has the same meaning as in
14	section 3(b)(6) of the United States Housing Act of
15	1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437a(b)(6)).
16	"(11) State.—The term 'State' means any
17	State of the United States, the District of Columbia,
18	the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, the Virgin Is-
19	lands, Guam, American Samoa, the Northern Mar-
20	iana Islands, or any agency or instrumentality there-
21	of that is established pursuant to legislation and
22	designated by the chief executive officer to act on
23	behalf of the State with regard to provisions of this
24	subtitle.

1	"(12) Unit of general local govern-
2	MENT.—The term 'unit of general local government'
3	means—
4	"(A) a city, town, township, county, parish,
5	village, or other general purpose political sub-
6	division of a State; and
7	"(B) any agency or instrumentality thereof
8	that is established pursuant to legislation and
9	designated by the chief executive officer to act
10	on behalf of the jurisdiction with regard to pro-
11	visions of this subtitle.".

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